Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend Claims 9-12, 15-16, and 19-20, and cancel Claims 8, 13-14, 17-18, and 21-22, as follows.

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 10 8, wherein the determining and forwarding steps use a Small Group Multicast scheme.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 8, further comprising the step of:

A method for distributing web content objects across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the method on an intermediate node comprising the steps of:

receiving a multicast packet;

determining one or more "next hops" that the multicast packet should be forwarded to;

forwarding one copy of the multicast packet to each of the "next hops";

sending ACKs and/or NAKs between an intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit; and

repetitively executing the determining and forwarding steps for a plurality of one or more multicast packets.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 10 8, further comprising the steps of:

processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast packet transmission; and

performing multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 10 8, wherein the multicast packet comprises a small group multicast packet.

Claims 13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer readable medium as defined in claim 14, further comprising the instructions for:~~

A computer readable medium including instructions for distributing web content objects across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the computer readable medium comprising instructions for:

receiving a multicast packet containing address information for a set of destinations;

determining the "next hops" for those destinations;

replicating the multicast packet for each "next hop";

sending ACKs and/or NAKs between an intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit;

forwarding a copy of the multicast packet to each "next hop"; and

repetitively executing the determining, replicating and forwarding steps for each newly received multicast packet.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 15 ~~13~~, further comprising the instructions for:

processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast packet transmission; and

performing multicast packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

Claims 17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The intermediate node as defined in claim 18, further comprising:~~

An intermediate node for distributing web content objects across a network of information processing units and intermediate nodes, the intermediate node comprising:

a reception unit for receiving a multicast packet containing address information for a set of destinations;

a determination unit for determining a "next hop" for each of the destinations;

a copying unit for replicating the multicast packet for each of the "next hops";

a processor for sending ACKs and/or NAKs between the intermediate node and another node of a network for reliably delivering a multicast packet to a destination information processing unit;

a forwarding unit for forwarding a copy of the multicast packet to each of the "next hops"; and

a repeater unit for repetitively executing the determining, replicating and forwarding for a plurality of multicast packets.

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20. (Currently Amended) The intermediate node as defined in claim 19 ~~17~~, further comprising:

an acknowledgement unit for processing ACKs and/or NAKs from a reliable multicast transmission; and

a retransmit unit for handling packet retransmissions based on the processed ACKs and/or NAKs.

Claims 21-22 (Canceled)